

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2326

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007

NATURAL GAS FROM COAL

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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is preparing any outline of the action plan on the proposal of producing natural gas from coal in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is identifying the blocks of coal having quality coal and capable of producing gas;
- (d) if so, whether the areas have been/are being identified for allocation of its coal blocks;
- (e) if so, the quantity of fuel and gas assessed to be produced from this; and
- (f) the time by which the scheme of producing gas from coal is likely to be approved?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b):- Yes, Sir. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is a natural gas produced from coal seams and is considered as a major source of gas in bridging the gap of demand and supply. In order to develop the CBM resources in the country, Government of India formulated a CBM policy in 1997. So far, Government has awarded 26 CBM blocks for exploration and production of CBM in the country. These blocks are located in the states of West Bengal (4), Jharkhand (6), Chattisgarh (3), Madhya Pradesh (5), Andhra Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (4), Gujarat (1) and Maharashtra

(1).

(c) & (d):- Action has already been initiated to carve out prospective CBM blocks for offering in fourth round in consultation with Ministry of Coal. CBM related data will be generated in these areas in order to assess the CBM resources of these blocks before being offered.

(e) & (f):- The production potential of the 26 awarded blocks so far is 38 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) during their peak production period. The commercial production of CBM is likely to commence by end of 2007-08.